



April 26, 2012

Dear Weed Free Forage Producer:

I want to make you aware of new pesticide product label requirements regarding Milestone®, ForeFront®, and Chaparral™. Hay from grass treated with Milestone within the preceding 18-months can only be used on the farm or ranch where the product is applied unless allowed by supplemental labeling. This means that if you use Milestone in your field, you will not be able to sell the forage. It will have to stay on your farm. I know many of you use it to control thistle.

Please find attached information on how the pH of your water affects the half life or storage of your pesticides. I found it interesting and I thought you would, too. It explains why some people don't have good results from their spraying when the tank has been mixed for a couple days. I am purchasing a pH water meter. I'd be glad to check your water when I certify your fields.

Your cooperation and willingness to follow established procedures allows me to continue my responsibilities for the county while getting to your fields in a timely manner. I have agreed to assist the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) once again by inspecting your fields during 2012. I would ask that we continue to follow the system from previous years. You should call my office at 758-5554 at least 4-5 days before cutting to make an appointment for inspection. If I'm in the field, my cell is 253-2028. If I am not able to get to your property, you will need to call MDA in Billings to arrange an inspection. Jeremy Seidlitz is the program specialist for the Noxious Weed Seed Free Forage (NWSFF) program. His number is 406-652-2823. He or his staff will come from Billings to inspect your field.

**I will not be available the week of August 20-25. I will be helping my daughter move to college/vet school – exciting times. Fair is August 13-19 and we have almost 700 4-H students and over 1,500 entries to coordinate. Your help in scheduling ahead will be greatly appreciated.

Most fields are ready at the same time and I will do my best to schedule you by geographical location.

The following are guidelines to the inspection process:

- Forage must be inspected within 7 days of harvest.
- The fee for inspection is \$2.50 per acre inspected plus mileage at the state rate of \$.50 from Kalispell.
- Twine is \$35.00 per box. ** price reduction still in place
- Markers are \$7.00/bag of 100.
- Fields will be weed free. There are over 60 weeds with a zero tolerance policy. It will save time and money for both the inspector and the producer if fields have been prescreened to eliminate walking fields that contain weeds. Fields that do not pass inspection the first cutting are eligible to be re-inspected at second cutting.
- Fields that are inaccessible or that have irrigation running will not be inspected.
- Payment will be collected at the time of inspection.

I look forward to working with you again and assisting with the weed free forage program. Best wishes,

Pat McGlynn

Montana State University Agriculture Extension Agent, Flathead County